

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 INT-08 GSA-01 STR-08 RSR-01

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R 122141 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9565

INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS LA PAZ 2114

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR EMIN BL

SUBJ: TIN SALES

1. WIRE SERVICE STORIES REPORTING SECRETARY SCHULTZ' STATEMENT TO OAS

DELEGATIONS THAT U. S. " WOULD NOT ABANDON ITS DECISION TO SELL STOCKPILE MATERIALS" BROUGHT ANOTHER ROUND OF PRESS STORIES ATTACKING

DECISION AS " ECONOMIC AGGRESSION AGAINST BOLIVIA". APRIL 12 PRESENCIA AND HOY BOTH HEADLINED ECONOMIC AGGRESSION THEME AND QUOTED MINMINES LEMA AND MININFO FORTUN TO EFFECT THAT " ECONOMIC AGGRESSION" WOULD BE MET WITH AN " ENERGETIC PROTEST AGAINST THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION". THEY ALSO POINTED OUT THE PROMISE BY THE UNITED STATES TO CONSULT WITH BOLIVIA PRIOR TO ANY SUCH SALES AND NOTED THAT " BOLIVIA HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY COMMUNICATIONS WHATSOEVER REGARDING THOSE CONSULTATIONS".

2. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE CONTRAST BETWEEN ATTITUDE RAKEN BY MINMINES REGARDING " ECONOMIC AGGRESSION" AND THE MORE REASONABLE POSTURE DISPLAYED BY FONMIN TO THE SECRETARY (STATE 065622)

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AND BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE AMBASSADOR (LA PAZ 1961). WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO EXPECT THAT EVEN THOUGH THE GOB MAY ENTER INTO CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH US, AND EVEN IF A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY FORMULA IS ACHIEVED, THIS WILL NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE GOB EARANCE OF THE SCRIPT, THE PHONG DINH S-2 BELIEVES IT WAS WRITTEN IN LATE MARCH BY A VC CADRE IN PHUNG HIEP WHO HAD ATTENDED A PROVINCE- LEVEL MEETING. THE NOTES INDICATE THAT COSVN HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAJOR ATTACKS PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE CEASEFIRE, BUT THAT THE VC HAD NOT ACCOMPLISHED ALL PLANNED OBJECTIVES. THEREFORE, THE VC ARE, ACCORDING TO THE NOTES, DETERMINED TO CARRY ON THE STRUGGLE BY ATTACKING GVN OUTPOSTS, LIBERATING POPULATED AREAS, AND INTERDICTING ROADS AND CANALS UNTIL HIGHER HEADQUARTERS ORDERS THEM TO CEASE.

3. THE VC IN PHUNG HIEP HAVE IN FACT ATTACKED TWO PF OUTPOSTS IN THE PAST WEEK, AND THE APRIL 1-10 " HIGH POINT" THROUGHOUT PHONG DINH APPEARS TO CONFIRM VC INTENTIONS TO CONTINUE AGGRESSIVE MILITARY ACTIVITIES. PHONG DINH SECTOR HAS REPORTED 43 VC VIOLATIONSIN THE FIRST ELEVEN DAYS OF APRIL, COMPARED TO 52 FOR ALL OF MARCH. MOST OF THE INCIDENTS WERE MINOR HARRASSMENTS, BUT THE VC ALSO ATTACKED SEVERAL OUTPOSTS.

4. IN MID- MARCH, OUTPOSTS IN NEIGHBORING THUAN NHON DISTRICT RECEIVED LETTERS SIGNED BY NGUYEN VAN TU, THE MILITARY COMMANDER OF VC O MON DISTRICT. THE LETTERS, ADDRESSED TO A HALF- DOZEN RF COMPANY AND PF PLATOON COMMANDERS, PROCLAIMED THE DEFEAT OF THE AMERICANS AND THE END TO THE WAR. THE VC LETTERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME FIGHTING CONTINUED, BUT URGED LOCAL GVN SOLDIERS TO RESTORE THE PEACE BY REFRAINING FROM FIRING THEIR WEAPONS, AND NOT CONDUCTING OPERATIONSOR OTHERWISE CREATING OBSTACLES FOR LOCAL (VC) AUTHORITIES AND " LIBERATION SOLDIERS" WHO CAME TO " VISIT" AREAS AROUND OUTPOSTS. THE VC OFFERED TO SEND AN EMMISSARY TO MEET WITH GVN COUNTERPARTS.

5. REGIONAL OR HIGHER HEADQUARTERS PROBABLY PREPARED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE THUAN NHON LETTER FOR ADAPTATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. THE LETTERHEAD CONTAINED NEW NOMENCLATURE, REFERRING TO " HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE LIBERATED PEOPLE OF O MON DISTRICT" (BO CHI HUY CAC LUC LUONG VU TRANG NHAN DAN GIAI
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PHONG HUYEN O MON). PREVIOUSLY, THE VC HAD USED THE TERM, " HEADQUARTERS, O MON DISTRICT FORCES". THE WORD " VU TRANG" IS NORTH VIETNAMESE USAGE: A SOUTHERNER WOULD WRITE " VO TRANG".

6. COMMENT. THE APRIL INCREASE IN PHONG DINH MILITARY ACTIVITY APPEARS MAINLY INTENDED FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT; TO REMIND THE POPULACE OF THE VC PRESENCE. THE VC FAILED TO SEIZE ADDITIONAL TERRITORY IN THE PROVINCE IN FEBRUARY, AND SINCE THE RECENT WITHDRAWAL OF THE D-1 MAIN FORCE REGIMENT TO CHUONG THIE NN THE VC SEEM RESIGNED TO HARRASSMENT OF GVN POSITIONS FOR THE TIME BEING. NEVERTHELESS, THE RECENT INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO PHUNG HIEP VC TO CONTINUE FIGHTING INDEFINITELY ARE AN OMINOUS SIGN. THESE ORDERS CONTRAST WITH EARLIER INTELLIGENCE WHICH INDICATED THAT THE VC WERE PLANNING ONLY SHORT TERM ATTACKS TO CAPITALIZE ON REDUCED VIGILANCE OF GVN TROOPS.

BARNES
UNQUOTE:
BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAPAZ02114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730446/aaaaisjy.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 24 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Oct-2001 by averetam>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980126
Subject: TIN SALES
TAGS: EMIN, PFOR, BL, n/a
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005